

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, L.D. 1991. *Tantilla shawi*.

***Tantilla shawi* (Taylor)**

Tantilla shawi Taylor, 1949:207. Type-locality, "Xilitla [region] ([Rancho] Miramar [Grandel]," San Luis Potosí, México, ca. 1372 m. Holotype, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology 306, adult male, collected 28 August 1947 by Charles R. Shaw (examined by author).

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** A species of *Tantilla* with a dorsal color pattern consisting of narrow transverse cream bands, usually less than one scale wide, divided medially and the halves offset from one another, separating segments of the bluish black to black ground color from one another on the anterior fourth of the body. The remainder of the dorsum of the body is bluish black to black. The venter is pale pink, except for the cream-colored chin. A small black spot is present at the lateral edge of each of the first 18 or 20 ventrals. The head pattern consists of a black head cap with a cream band crossing snout behind black tip and a pale postocular spot extending from lip, behind the eye, to the frontal. The black head cap is followed by a pale nuchal band about one scale long, in turn followed by a dark nape band about three and one-half scales long. Ventral and subcaudal counts are 166 and 48, respectively.

• **Diagnosis.** *Tantilla shawi* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a bluish black to black dorsum crossed by narrow pale bands on the anterior fourth of the body, a black head cap with a narrow pale snout band and dorsally-expanded pale postocular spot followed in succession by a pale nuchal band and dark nape band, 166 ventrals, and 48 subcaudals.

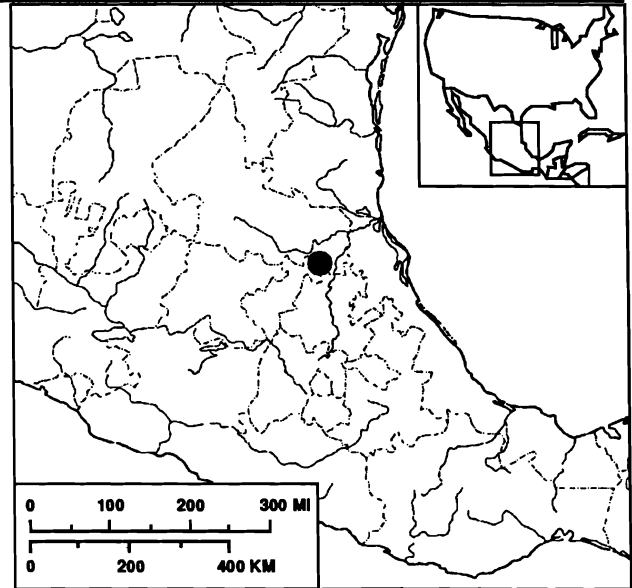
• **Descriptions.** Only the original description of Taylor (1949) exists. A correction of the ventral count of the holotype is in Wilson (1976).

• **Illustrations.** The species has not been illustrated.

• **Distribution.** *Tantilla shawi* is known only from the type locality at a moderate elevation in the extreme southeastern part of the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí.

• **Fossil Record.** None

• **Pertinent Literature.** Most of the information on this species, known only from the holotype, is in the original description (Taylor, 1949). Comments on relationships are in Taylor (1949) and



Map. The solid circle marks the type locality.

Wilson (1976). The species was also treated in a summary of information on the genus *Tantilla* (Wilson, 1982).

• **Etymology.** The name *shawi* is a patronym honoring Charles R. Shaw, the collector of the holotype.

Literature Cited

- Taylor, E.H. 1949. A preliminary account of the herpetology of the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 33:169-215.
 Wilson, L.D. 1976. Variation in the South American colubrid snake *Tantilla semicincta* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril) with comments on pattern dimorphism. Bull. So. California Acad. Sci. 75:42-48.
 —. 1982. *Tantilla*. Cat. Amer. Amph. Rept.:307.1-307.4.

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